BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2019-335-T - ORDER NO. 2020-52

FEBRUARY 5, 2020

IN RE:	Application of Affordable Movers SC, LLC)	ORDER GRANTING
	for a Class E (Household Goods) Certificate)	CLASS E (HOUSEHOLD
	of Public Convenience and Necessity for)	GOODS) CERTIFICATE
	Operation of Motor Vehicle Carrier)	WITH STATEWIDE
)	AUTHORITY
)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the Application of Affordable Movers SC, LLC ("Applicant" or "Affordable") for a Class E (Household Goods) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Applicant seeks statewide authority to move household goods in South Carolina. Notice of this matter was timely published pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817(C)(3)(a). No parties intervened, and a hearing on the Application was held on January 15, 2020, in the offices of the Commission.

The parties at the hearing included the Applicant, represented by Rachel McConoughey, Esquire, and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), represented by Jenny R. Pittman, Esquire.

The Applicant presented the testimony of George R. Wilkinson, IV, CEO of the Applicant. Mr. Wilkinson testified about his knowledge and experience in the moving industry and asked that Affordable be awarded a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate a household goods moving business in South Carolina. He also stated

that he was aware of and intended to comply with South Carolina's laws and regulations governing household goods movers. Mr. Wilkinson also testified about the liability and cargo insurance he had obtained on behalf of the Applicant, as well as the financial condition of the Applicant.

Applicant offered the shipper witness affidavit testimony of Murrill Boitnott, a licensed real estate broker and agent affiliated with Keller Williams in Greenville, South Carolina. Witness Boitnott's affidavit identified a need for additional moving services in South Carolina.

ORS did not prefile testimony but submitted a letter to the Commission on January 14, 2020, stating that ORS is of the opinion that the Applicant meets the requirements of fit, willing and able as required of a Household Goods Mover under Commission regulations.

The Commission finds that Affordable Movers SC, LLC has demonstrated that it is fit, willing, and able to operate as a household goods mover pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-23-330 and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-133. We also find that the public convenience and necessity is not already being served by an existing authorized service. Therefore, the Application of Affordable Movers SC, LLC should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. The Application of Affordable Movers SC, LLC for a Class E (Household Goods) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is approved for the Applicant to transport household goods to points and places in South Carolina.
 - 2. The Final Tariff and Bill of Lading are approved and attached hereto as

Order Appendix A.

- 3. The Applicant shall file with the Office of Regulatory Staff the proper insurance, safety rating, and other information required by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-23-10 *et. seq.*, as amended, and by S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-100 through 103-241 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations for Motor Carriers, and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 38-400 through 38-503 of the Department of Public Safety's Rules and Regulations for Motor Carriers, as amended, within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, or within such additional time as may be authorized by the Commission.
- 4. Upon compliance with S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-23-10 *et. seq.*, as amended, and the applicable regulations for motor carriers, a Certificate will be issued by the Office of Regulatory Staff authorizing the motor carrier services granted herein.
- 5. Prior to compliance with the above-referenced requirements and receipt of a Certificate, the motor carrier services authorized by this Order shall not be provided.
- 6. Failure of the Applicant to either (1) complete the certification process by complying with the Office of Regulatory Staff requirements of causing to be filed with the Commission proof of appropriate insurance and an acceptable safety rating within ninety (90) days this Order or (2) to request and obtain from the Commission additional time to comply with the requirements stated above, will cause this Order granting the Application to be null and void, and the Application herein shall be dismissed without prejudice. In this event, no further order of this Commission is necessary.
- 7. Pursuant to the two-month reporting requirement contained in Order No. 2014-443 (May 21, 2014), the ORS is requested to furnish the name and docket

number of the Applicant to the Commission should the Applicant fail to meet the requirements of the present Order. If such notification is provided, the docket shall be closed.

8. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk/Executive Director

REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF CHARGES APPLICABLE TO

CERTAIN INTRASTATE HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVES WITHIN THE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Applicability of Tariff

This tariff contains the regulations and rates applicable to the provision of intrastate household goods moved by Affordable Movers SC, LLC. These services are furnished between points and places in South Carolina.

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SECTION 1

1.0 **Transportation Charges**

Transportation Charges include the hourly rates as listed below.

1.1 **Hourly Rates and Charges**

Moves will be conducted on a "straight time" basis, with a minimum hourly charge as set out below plus actual travel time. The clock starts at the appropriate hourly rate when the movers arrive at the origin location and stops when the movers leave the destination location.

Number of Movers	Hourly Kate
Truck fee	\$125.00 flat fee* (up to 50 miles)
2 movers	\$95.00/hour
3 movers	\$125.00/hour
Additional movers	\$20.00/hour

^{*}Moves farther than 50 miles from origin to destination will incur an additional truck fee of \$2 per mile for each additional mile.

1.2 **Office Hours / Minimum Hourly Charges:**

Affordable Movers SC will operate Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am - 4:00pm.

Monday- Friday Two-Hour Minimum Charge Saturday- Sunday Three-Hour Minimum Charge Recognized Federal Holidays Three- Hour Minimum Charge

After the minimum hourly charge, the hourly rates are calculated in fifteen-minute increments. Any interim charge is rounded up to the next fifteen-minute increment. If customers cancel within 48 hours of their move, **Affordable Movers SC** will charge the applicable minimum. Hourly rates are the same, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, in every season of the year. Customers are not charged an additional fee for overtime labor.

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Affordable Movers SC, LLC

South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

SECTION 2

2.0 ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The following charges shall be assessed in addition to the hourly rates quoted in Section 1 of this tariff, in connected with a move involving additional items: 19 December 23 2:24 PM - SCPSC - Docket # 2019-335-T - Page 11 of 17 with a move involving additional items:

2.1 **Bulky Article Charges (per item)**

- Floor Model Television (48" or above) \$120
- Pool Tables- \$275
- Gun cabinet \$90
- Steel Gun Cabinet (in excess of 400 lbs.) \$150
- Hot Tubs, Whirlpools \$250
- Riding Lawnmowers- \$120
- Freezers \$90
- Flat Screen Televisions (41" or above) \$70.00
- Golf Carts \$150

2.2 **Elevator or Stair Carry**

Affordable Movers SC does not charge an additional fee for elevator or stair carry, except as specified in Section 2.1 above.

2.3 **Excessive Distance or Long Carry Charges**

Affordable Movers SC does not charge an additional fee for carrying articles an excessive distance to or from the motor vehicle.

2.4 Pick Up and Delivery

Affordable Movers SC does not charge an additional fee for making additional pick-ups or deliveries after the initial stop.

Date Proposed: 01/06/2020 Effective Date:

2.5 **Packing and Unpacking**

2.5.1 Affordable Movers SC does not charge an additional fee for packing and unpacking. The packing rate is the same as the hourly rate listed in Section 1; plus the market price of packing materials, including sales tax on the materials.

2.5.2 Affordable Movers SC is not responsible for items packed by the customer. containing fragile or breakable items must be properly labeled. Affordable Movers SC reserves the right to decline any moves consisting of extremely large or fragile items.

2.6 Piano Charges

Affordable Movers SC will not move pianos.

2.7 **Articles, Special Servicing**

The rates and charges in this tariff do not include servicing or connection of appliances such as freezers, refrigerators, computer equipment, washers, dryers, televisions, and similar articles.

2.8 **Waiting Time**

The customer is charged the rates specified in Section 1 for all waiting time or delays which are not the fault of Affordable Movers SC.

2.9 Storage-In-Transit Fee

The customer will be charged a \$150 Storage-In-Transit fee per night when the customer's goods must be held overnight.

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SECTION 3

3.0 RULES AND REGULATIONS

3.1 Claims

- **3.1.1** All claims for loss, damage or overcharge must be written and should be attached to the Bill of Lading.
- **3.1.2** Claimant must notify the carrier of all claims for concealed damage within 30 days of the move. **Affordable Movers SC** must be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect damaged items.
- 3.1.3 Although our movers will be careful with your possessions, from time to time damages may occur. If damages are caused by our service, **Affordable Movers SC** reserves the right to repair the damage(s) in question. If we determine that damages cannot be repaired, we reserve the right to either replace or compensate (actual cash value) for the damage. If there is damage, notify **Affordable Movers SC** immediately. They will complete a Damage Report before they leave your site. If you discover damage after the move, call the office within 30 days of your move. No damage claims will be honored until the charges for moving services are paid in full. You will be asked to sign a Release of Liability acknowledging this.

3.2 Computing Charges

Affordable Movers SC rates are computed by multiplying the applicable hourly rate by the time as provided in Section 1.

3.3 Governing Publications

Affordable Movers SC rates and charges are governed by the terms and conditions of this tariff, and the Rules and Regulations of the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

3.4 Items of Particular Value

Affordable Movers SC does not assume any liability whatsoever for documents, currency, credit cards, jewelry, watches, precious stones or articles of extraordinary value including accounts, bills, deeds, evidences of debt, securities, notes, postage stamps, stamp collections, trading stamps, revenue stamps, letters or packets of letters, alcoholic beverages, firearms, coin collections, articles of peculiarly inherent or intrinsic value, precious metals or articles manufactured there from. Affordable Movers SC will not accept responsibility for safe delivery of such articles if they come into Affordable Movers SC's possession with or without Affordable Movers SC's knowledge.

Date Proposed: 01/06/2020 Effective Date: _____

3.5 Bill of Lading, Contract Terms, and Conditions

Each customer will be provided with a copy of Affordable Movers SC's Bill of Lading. The terms and conditions of the Bill of Lading, attached hereto, are hereby incorporated by reference.

3.6 **Delays**

Affordable Movers SC shall not be liable for any delays in transporting household goods resulting from an act of God or fault or neglect of any unforeseen entities.

SECTION 4

4.0 **PROMOTIONS**

Affordable Movers SC shall apply the following promotions, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory fashion:

Military/Senior Citizens 4.1

A promotional rate of normal hourly service charges for moving, packing and unpacking items listed below will be applied for customers who are active duty military, disabled veterans, and senior citizens that provide proper proof of same. Extra chargeable items will follow rates in Section 2.1. Moves will be conducted on a "straight time" basis, with a minimum hourly charge as set out in Section 1.1 plus actual travel time. The clock starts at the appropriate hourly rate when the movers arrive at the origin location and stops when the movers leave the destination location. The hourly rates and charges are indicated below:

Number of Movers **Hourly Rate**

\$114.00 flat fee* (up to 50 miles) Truck Fee 2 movers \$85.50 \$114.00 3 movers Additional movers \$19.00 per man/per hour

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^{*}Moves farther than 50 miles from origin to destination will incur an additional truck fee of \$2 per mile for each additional mile.

UNIFORM HOUSEHOLD GOODS BILL OF LADING AND FREIGHT BILL

AFFORDABLE MOVERS SC LLC

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Order Appendix Am 923 200 Docket No. 2019-335-T Order No. 2020-52 February 5, 2020

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CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Sec. 1. (a) The carrier or party in possession of any of the property herein described shall be liable as at common law for any loss thereof or damage thereto, except as hereinafter provided.
- (b) No carrier or party in possession of all or any of the property herein described shall be liable for any loss thereof or damage thereto or delay caused by the act of God, the public enemy, the acts of public authority, quarantine, riots, strikes, perils of navigation, the act or default of the shipper or owner, the nature of the property or defect or inherent vice therein. Except in case of negligence of the carrier or party in possession of all or any of the property herein described shall be liable for the loss or damage thereto or responsible for its condition, operation or functioning, whether or not such property or any part of it is packed, unpacked by the shipper or its agent or the carrier or its agent or the carrier or its agent or the carrier or party in possession, no carrier or party in possession of all or any of the property herein described shall be liable for damage to or loss of contents of pieces of furniture, crates, bundles, cartons, boxes, barrels or other containers unless such containers are open for the carrier's inspection and then only for such articles as are specifically listed by the shipper and receipted for by the carrier or its agent.
- (c) Except in cases of negligence of the carrier or party in possession, the carrier or party in possession of any of the property herein described shall not be liable for delay caused by highway obstruction, or faulty or impassable highway, or lack of capacity of any highway, bridge, or ferry, or caused by breakdown or mechanical defect of vehicles or equipment.
- (d) Except in case of negligence of the carrier or party in possession the carrier or party in possession shall not be liable for loss, damage, or delay occurring while the property is stopped and held or stored in transit upon request of the shipper, owner, or party entitled to make such request, whether such request was made before or after the carrier comes into possession of the property.
- (e) In case of quarantine the property may be discharged at the risk and expense of the owners into quarantine depot or elsewhere, as required by quarantine regulations, or authorities, and in such case, carrier's responsibility shall cease when the property is so discharged, or property may be returned by carrier at owner's expense to shipping point earning charges both ways. Quarantine expenses of whatever nature or kind upon or in respect to property shall be borne by the owners of the property or be a lien thereon. The carrier shall not be liable for loss or damage occasioned by famigation or disinfection or other acts done or required by quarantine regulations or authorities even though the same may have been done by carrier's officers, agents, or employees, nor for detention, loss or damage of any kind occasioned by quarantine or the enforcement thereof. No carrier shall be liable, except in case of negligence, for any mistake or inaccuracy in any information furnished by the carrier, its agents, or officers, as to quarantine laws or regulations. The shipper shall hold the carriers harmless from any expense they may incur, or damages they may be required to pay, by reason of the introduction of the property covered by this contract into any place against the quarantine laws or regulations in effect at such place.
- Sec. 2 (a) No carrier is bound to transport said property by any particular schedule, vehicle, train or vessel or otherwise than with reasonable dispatch. Every carrier shall have the right in case of physical necessity to forward said property by any carrier or route between the point of shipment and the point of destination. In all cases not prohibited by law, where a lower value than actual value has been represented in writing by the shipper or has been agreed upon in writing as the released value of the property as determined by the classification or tariffs upon which the rate is based, such lower value shall be the maximum amount to be recovered, whether or not such loss or damage occurs from negligence.
- (b) As a condition precedent to recovery, claims must be filed in writing with the receiving or delivering carrier, or carrier issuing this bill of lading, or carrier in possession of the property when the loss, damage, injury or delay occurred, within ninety days after delivery of the property (or in case of export traffic, within nine months after delivery at port of export) or, in case of failure to make delivery, then within nine months after a reasonable time, for delivery has elapsed; and suits shall be instituted against any carrier only within two years and one day from the day when notice in writing is given by the carrier to the claimant that the carrier has disallowed the claim or any part or parts thereof specified in the notice. Where claims are not filed or suits are not instituted thereon in accordance with the foregoing provisions, no carrier hereunder shall be liable, and such claims will not be paid.
- (c) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage to any of said property shall have the full benefit of any insurance that may have been effected upon or on account of said property so far as this shall not avoid the policies or contracts of insurance; provided that the carrier reimburse the claimant for the premium paid thereon.
 - Sec. 3. Except where such service is required as the result of carrier's negligence, all property shall be subject to necessary cooperage, packing and repacking at owner's cost.
- Sec. 4. (a) Property not received by the party entitled to receive it within the free time (if any) allowed by tariffs lawfully on file (such free time to be computed as therein provided) after notice of the arrival of the property at destination or at the port of export (if intended for export) has been duly sent or given, and after placement of the property for delivery at destination, or at the time tender of delivery of the property to the party entitled to receive it or at the address given for delivery has been made, may be kept in vehicle, warehouse or place of business of the carrier, subject to the tariff charge for storage and carrier's responsibility as warehouseman, only, or at the option of the carrier, may be removed to and stored in a warehouse at the point of delivery or at other available points, at the cost of the owner, and there held without liability on the part of the carrier, and subject to a lien for all transportation and other lawful charges, including a reasonable charge for storage. In the event the consignee cannot be found at the address given for delivery, then in that event, notice of the placing of such goods in warehouse shall be left at the address given for delivery and mailed to any other address given on the bill of lading for notification, showing the warehouse in which such property has been placed, subject to the provisions of this paragraph.
- (b) Where nonperishable property which has been transported to destination hereunder is refused by consignee or the party entitled to receive it upon tender of delivery, or said consignee or party entitled to receive it fails to receive it or claim within 15 days after notice of arrival of the property at destination shall have been duly sent or given, the carrier may sell the same at public auction to the highest bidder, at such place as may be designated by the carrier; provided, that the carrier shall have first mailed, sent, or given to the consignor notice that the property has been refused or remains unclaimed, as the case may be, and that it will be subject to sale under the terms of the bill of lading if disposition be not arranged for, and shall have published notice containing a description of the property, the same name of the party to whom consigned, and the time and place of sale, once a week for two successive weeks, in a new spaper of general circulation at the place of sale or nearest place where such newspaper is published; provided, that 30 days shall have elapsed before publication of notice of sale after said notice that the property was refused or remains unclaimed was mailed, sent, or given.
- (c) Where perishable property which has been transported hereunder to destination is refused by consignee or party entitled to receive it, or consignee or party entitled to receive it shall fail to receive it promptly, the carrier may, in its discretion, to prevent deterioration or further deterioration, sell the same to the best advantage at private or public sale; provided, that, if there be time for service of notification to the consignor or owner of the refusal of the property or the failure to receive it and request for disposition of the property, such notification shall be given in such manner as the exercise of due diligence requires, before the property is sold.
- (d) Where the procedure provided for in the two paragraphs last preceding is not possible, it is agreed that nothing contained in said paragraphs shall be construed to abridge the right of the carrier at its option to sell the property under such circumstances and in such manner as may be authorized by law.
- (e) The proceeds of any sale made under this section shall be applied by the carrier to the payment of advances, tariff charges, packing, storage, and any other lawful charges and the expense of notice, advertisement sale, and other necessary expense and of caring for and maintaining the property, if proper care of the same requires special expense, and should there be a balance, it shall be paid to the owner of the property sold hereunder.
- (f) Where the carrier is directed to load property from (or render any service at) a place or places at which the consignor or his agent is not present, the property shall be at the risk of owner before loading.
- Where the carrier is directed to unload or deliver property (or render any service at) the place or places at which the consignee or his agent is not present, the property shall be at the risk of the owner after unloading or delivery.
- Sec. 5 No Carrier hereunder will carry or be liable in any way for any documents, specie, or for any articles of extraordinary value not specifically rated in the published classifications or tariffs unless a special agreement to do so and a stipulated value of the articles are endorsed hereon.
- Sec. 6 Explosives or dangerous goods will not be accepted for shipment. Every party whether principal or agent shipping such goods shall be liable for and indemnity the carrier against all loss or damage caused by such goods and carrier will not be liable for safe delivery of the shipment.
- Sec 7. The owner or consignee shall pay the advances, tariff charges, packing and storage, if any, and all other lawful charges occurring on said property; but, except in those instances where it may lawfully be authorized to do so, no carrier shall deliver or relinquish possession at destination of the property covered by this bill of lading until all tariff rates and charges thereon have been paid. The consignor shall be liable for the advances, tariff charges, packing, storage and all other lawful charges, except that if the consignor stipulates by signature, in the space provided for that purpose on the face of this bill of lading that the carrier shall not make delivery without requiring payment of such charges and the carrier contrary to such stipulation, shall make delivery without requiring such payment, the consignor (except as hereinafter provided) shall not be liable for such charges: Provided, that, where the carrier has been instructed by the shipper or consignor to deliver said property to a consignee other than the shipper or consignor, such consignee shall not be legally liable for transportation charges in respect of the transportation of said property (beyond those billed against him at the time of delivery for which he is otherwise liable) which may be found to be due after the property has been delivered to him, if the consignee (a) is an agent only and has no beneficial title in said property, and, (b) prior to delivery of said property has notified the delivering carrier in writing of the fact of such agency and absence of beneficial title, and, in the case of a shipment reconsigned or diverted to a point other than that specified in the original bill of lading, has also notified the delivering carrier in writing of the name and address of the beneficial owner of said property; and in such cases the shipper or consignor, or, in the case of a shipment so reconsigned or diverted, the beneficial owner, shall be liable for such additional charges. If the consignee has given to the carrier or r
- Sec. 8 If this bill of lading is issued on the order of the shipper, or his agent, in exchange or in substitution for another bill of lading, the shipper's signature to the prior bill of lading as to the statement of value or otherwise, or election for common law or bill of lading liability, in or in connection with such prior bill of lading, shall be considered a part of this bill of lading as fully as if the same were written or made in or in connection with this bill of lading.
- Sec. 9 Any alteration, addition or erasure in this bill of lading which shall be made without the special notation hereon of the agent of the carrier is suing this bill of lading shall be without effect, and this bill of lading shall be enforceable according to its original tenor.